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HELPERS AMONG US — FEATURES

Helpers Among Us - Lucille Murray lights up Winchester

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Lucille Murray raises money to light up Winchester with the “Lights of Love” - and also makes a personal donation for the Altar lights and trees at St. Eulalia’s Church during the holiday season as well. COURTESY PHOTO

This past holiday season, downtown trees were covered in lights residents might have thought the town pays for them.

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But in fact, Squire Road resident Lucille Murray raised funds and bought them in 2004 to cheer up Winchester's children.

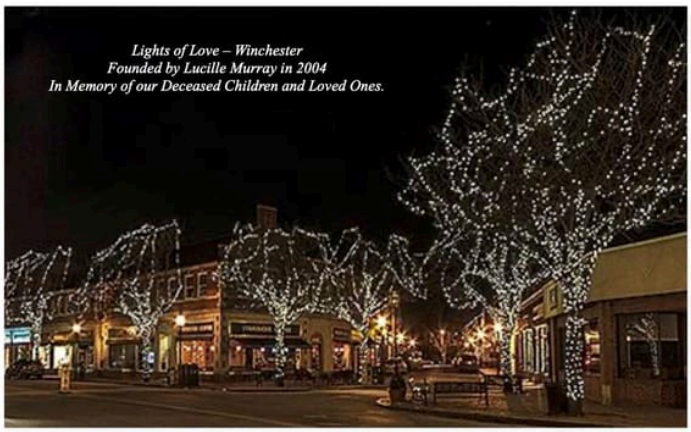

PHOTO COURTESY LUCILLE MURRAY

"My 10-year-old daughter Marie Camille died from cystic fibrosis and several children were killed in car accidents," Murray says. "I decided to raise money through my 'Lights of Love' 501(c)(3) non-profit. People were very generous."

The Cummings Foundation is the biggest donor, she explains, and she got a discount on the lights from Mahoney's.

"Last year, all the lights dimmed," she says, "and we had to replace the strings for $12,000. And we do the wreaths on the lampposts, too. Last year we had to bring them up to code by grounding them and that cost $20,000."

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The Public Works Department puts the decorations up and stores the wreaths after the season's over.

Lucille raises money to support the "Lights of Love" through a holiday mailing every year and is most grateful for donations of any amount. All donations made out to the "Lights of Love" go completely to the "Lights of Love."

Lucille says, "Without our resident donations and the support of the Cummings Foundation - Mahoney's Rock Ledge Garden and the Winchester DPW - the Lights of Love would not be possible." The Winchester Chamber of Commerce partnered with the "Lights of Love" in 2016 and the Chamber helps support the "Lights of Love."

"Residents liked the look so much," she says, "that the town keeps the lights up all year."

And the Christmas trees and lights on the altar at St. Eulalia's Church on Ridge Street are also a gift from Lucille and her husband Paul. They set them up each year, and this year The Rev. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj helped.

"He said he'd love to do it if we told him what to do," she says.

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PHOTO COURTESY LUCILLE MURRAY

Pastoral Associate Louise Cocuzzo says, “We’re so grateful for Lucille’s generosity, a lovely way to beautify our church at Christmas time.”

Murray is also on the Board for an annual fundraiser for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

“The lights don’t have a cure,” she says, “that’s what our hospitals are looking for – but - for all children, lights give love and peace – and - for the families, this is a ‘mental cure’ that you can’t buy.”

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Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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November 27, 2025

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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